

Newburgh, Indiana held a hose cutting ceremony to dedicate its new fire and EMS stations in the name of Former Fire Chief Larry Grimes.

Mr. Speaker, it is written that a good name is more precious than rubies. The good people of Newburgh have put a good name on this new facility.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this esteemed man and cherished friend who as a family man, an educator, an attorney and a fireman, made southwestern Indiana a better place for his having been there.

CALLING ON CHINA TO RELEASE
LI SHAOMIN AND ALL OTHER
AMERICAN SCHOLARS OF CHI-
NESE ANCESTRY BEING HELD IN
DETENTION

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2001

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his laudable work in the area of human rights and injustice worldwide.

This matter we discuss today hits particularly close to home. Li Shaomin is an American citizen that China is holding hostage.

Sal Cordo, from Bloomfield, was his supervisor when Dr. Li worked for AT&T in New Jersey. Now Sal faces the unimaginable task of leading the charge to get his friend freed from a Chinese prison, where Dr. Li faces trumped up charges.

In a recent article, China's Foreign Minister stated that, "In China, observance of human rights is now in its historically best period."

If China is at its best when it is detaining American citizens without just cause, and waiting three months to press charges, then I cannot imagine them at their worst.

We granted China permanent most favored nation (MFN) status. This trade we grant China has a price. MFN for China costs our nation both our values and our dignity.

I would think they would be walking on eggshells to not act in such an offensive manner as they are by detaining Dr. Li. The Chinese government seems as determined as ever to quash expressions of personal freedom.

In yesterday's Washington Post, there was an article entitled "China Growing Uneasy about U.S. Relations."

The Chinese government should note that the people of New Jersey are not just uneasy about their actions, they are outraged!

Those in the Chinese government should note that the U.S. Congress has not forgotten about Li Shaomin.

The Bush administration should use every avenue at their disposal to encourage the Administration to place pressure on the Chinese government in asking for the release of Dr. Li and the other U.S. hostages.

Before granting annual MFN, before we decide an official position on their Olympic bid, the Administration must convince the Chinese government that it is in their best interest to do as we ask, and they do it now.

HONORING LINDA ENGELHART
FOR HER WORK WITH THE EL-
DERLY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Linda Engelhart for working selflessly to improve the lives of the elderly, especially the work she did at Columbine Manor in Salida, Colorado. Linda believes, as Arlene Shovald of the Mountain Mail quotes, that if everybody "would do one kind thing a day," then "it would be a better world." Linda, whose actions demonstrate her commitment to such kindness, has improved this world for many.

Linda, who has also worked for Area Agency on Aging, has acted as admissions and marketing director at Columbine Manor for three years. In order to ensure that each resident always has something to look forward to, Linda initiates many projects at the Manor. For instance, she holds a weekly meeting called "Conversations with Linda," to which she brings a tasty cuisine like lemon meringue pie or crab cakes to spice up the normal meal schedule. The meeting offers more than just a delicious treat, however. Each Tuesday, according to Linda, the residents "share beautiful stories about their past." In addition, she has involved herself with a committee that plans activities for residents and their families such as Operation Christmas Child, which creates shoeboxes full of gifts for small children. Also, she helps hold a party for every holiday, and a barbecue every month. Linda, always a good listener, makes sure that her events bring what her residents desire. For instance, she says, "Today, we're helping the residents make potato salad . . . They wanted home-made potato salad, so we let them do it."

Linda has helped transform the Columbine Manor into a rehabilitation center, sending home about 40 percent of its residents within a month or two. Perhaps the rehabilitation rate at Columbine Manor is so high because Lisa has treated her job as an opportunity to increase morale, to work alongside, and to generally get to know the residents there.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Linda Engelhart has acted with compassion, and has served as a model for the young and old of our nation. Today, I would like to thank and honor her on behalf of Congress for all that she has done for her residents and for humanity.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE CON-
CURRENT RESOLUTION 173—THE
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
EQUALITY RESOLUTION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today with the support of 26 of our colleagues—including both Republicans and Democrats—I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 173, the "International Human Rights Equality Resolution," a Resolution decrying human rights vio-

lations based on real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. We introduced this legislation Mr. Speaker, because we believe very strongly that we must send a strong message that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people must be treated with dignity and respect, not with hatred and violence.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we have introduced our Resolution today, which is the U.N. International Day in Support of Survivors of Torture. This Resolution, together with Amnesty International's newly released report, "Breaking the Silence," highlights the use of torture against people based on sexual orientation and condemns governments who perpetrate these outrageous human rights violations, or fail to do anything to prosecute the perpetrators. All around the world, unacceptable violations of human rights have taken place against individuals solely on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation. These ongoing persecutions against gay people include arbitrary arrests, rape, torture, imprisonment, extortion, and even execution.

The scope of these human rights violations is staggering, and for the victims, there are few avenues for relief. Mr. Speaker, some States create an atmosphere of impunity for rapists and murderers of gays and lesbians by failing to prosecute or investigate violence targeted at these individuals because of their sexual orientation. These abuses are not only sanctioned by some States, often, they are perpetrated by agents of the State.

Mr. Speaker, in Afghanistan, men convicted of sodomy by Taliban Shari'a courts are placed next to standing walls by Taliban officials and are subsequently executed as the walls are toppled upon them and they are buried under the rubble. In Guatemala and El Salvador, individuals are either tortured or killed by para-military groups because of their real or perceived sexual identity. In Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, Mauritania, and Iran persons are summarily executed if they are convicted of committing homosexual acts. In Pakistan, individuals are flogged for engaging in sexual conduct with same-sex partners, and in Uganda and Singapore individuals engaging in such conduct are sentenced to life in prison. In Brazil, a lesbian couple was tortured and sexually assaulted by civil police. Despite the existence of medical reports and eye-witness testimony, the perpetrators of these heinous crimes are never prosecuted.

Mr. Speaker, around the world, individuals are targeted and their basic human rights are denied because of their sexual orientation. The number and frequency of such grievous crimes against individuals cannot be ignored. Violence against individuals for their sexual orientation violates the most basic human rights.

House Concurrent Resolution 173, puts the United States on record against such horrible human rights violations. As a civilized country, we must speak out against and condemn these crimes. Our Resolution details just a few examples of violence against gays and lesbians in countries as wide ranging as Saudi Arabia, Mexico, China, El Salvador, and other countries. By calling attention to this unprovoked and indefensible violence, the International Human Rights Equality Resolution will broaden awareness of human rights violations based on sexual orientation.